

PRESS RELEASE



Site Singing: Vocal Explorations of Heritage Sites

An exhibition of work in progress by Ellen Southern
featuring sound art, drawings and photography

PRIVATE VIEW: Friday 3rd July , 6:30 pm – 8:30pm

EXHIBITION OPEN DAILY: Saturday 4th – Wednesday 8th July, 10am – 6pm

<http://www.centrespacegallery.com>



Address & directions:

6 Leonard Lane, Bristol, BS1 1EA, UK
See website for directions and parking

Contacts:

Ruth Piper - Gallery Co-ordinator. Office Hours: Wed & Thurs 10am -5pm
0117 929 1234 info@centrespacegallery.com

Interest areas: local art and culture, sound and music, environment and sustainability,
regional interest, history and heritage sites

About the exhibition:

Since last summer, sound artist Ellen Southern has visited a variety of heritage sites within a day of Bristol by foot and public transport, in keeping with Bristol being Green Capital 2015. At each site, she has experimented with her own voice and the acoustics of each space, using her voice to vocalise, or give voice to, these sites.

The resulting sound sketches, created from recordings made at these sites, are works in

progress towards final audio works. These will be downloadable by the public, with the aim of contributing to the visitor interpretation of, and encourage engagement with, these lesser known English Heritage sites.

The exhibition will offer the opportunity to hear the sound works created so far, with varying combinations presented each day, and discuss their making with Ellen. Drawings and photographs from the field trips will be exhibited alongside the sound works.

Exhibition resources:

Follow @ellen_southern and @centrespace1 on twitter, and see **#SiteSinging** for updates before, during and after the show.

Read a recent interview with the artist about the Site Singing project for SOUND ART TEXT, includes links to audio excerpts:

<http://sound-art-text.com/post/113174724279/site-singing-exclusive-interview-with-ellen>

For more on Ellen's work, see:

www.ellensouthern.co.uk

The project is documented here:

<https://sitesinging.wordpress.com/>

Hear more Site Singing audio here:

<https://sitesinging.bandcamp.com>

About the Centrespace Gallery:



Centrespace is a thriving community of artists and craftspeople offering both studio space, workshops, events and a gallery space for hire. Centrespace was founded in the late 1970's and has been running as a co-operative since 1988. Centrespace continues to develop creative opportunities for the wider community in the heart of the City of Bristol.

About the artist:

Ellen Southern (b. 1977) is a visual artist, singer-composer and performance maker, based in Bristol, UK.

Her work spans the mediums of performance, voice, drawing, music composition, sound art, video and artistic direction.

Southern grew up in rural Wales, and spent much of her time outdoors in the landscape, amongst castles and ruins, with just a sketchbook and her voice. After studying Fine Art at UWE Bristol (1995-9), she spent several years abroad, creating collective arts spaces and collaborative projects in squatted buildings and disused sites.

In the last few years, while studying music at Morley College, London, Southern started singing by joining choirs, in styles ranging from early music to jazz and gospel, classical and folk / traditional / Welsh language. She formed an ensemble of female voices to develop her

own compositions, and produced a number of collaborative and live works in and around London.

While on a performance MA at the University of Brighton (2011-13), these activities evolved into being a combination of music, sound, visual art (drawing), and performance practice. By researching and experimenting with the physics of organised sound, historical vocal forms and spatial performance practices, Southern formed the basis of her current work – an exploratory contemporary practice around combinations of ‘voices’.

In the summer of 2014 she returned to Bristol after fourteen years away, and began the Site Singing project as a way to both re-engage with her home region, and explore her voice in new ways.

Recent work includes Engaged Voice (12th – 16th November 2014), a site-specific voice based sound work and participatory performance series at The Edwardian Cloakroom as part of Bristol City Council’s Creative Spaces Programme, and Sounding Spike Island (1st – 4th May 2015), a roving vocal intervention in which she worked directly with the acoustics and activity of Open Studios, resounding through the stairways and corridors to create a sonic portrait of the Spike Island building.

More on these recent projects:

Engaged Voice:

See **#EngagedVoice** for documentation

Read a recent article on Bristol City Council’s Creative Spaces Programme website:

<https://bristolcitycouncilcreativespace.wordpress.com/2015/04/29/guest-blog-by-ellen-southern/>

Hear an audio clip here:

<https://ellensouthern.bandcamp.com/track/engaged-voice-excerpts-of-site-specific-voice-work>

Sounding Spike Island:

See **#SoundingSpikesIsland** for work in progress

Hear audio here:

<https://ellensouthern.bandcamp.com>